



State of Illinois
Bruce Rauner, Governor

Illinois Department of Transportation
Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary

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CONTACT:
Gianna Urgo 312.814.4693
Guy Tridgell 312.793.4199

Intersection Improvements at Illinois 53 and Strip Mine Road, Part of High-Speed Rail Program

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced that closures will take place near the intersection of Illinois 53 and Strip Mine Road, in Wilmington, for an intersection improvement project, beginning, weather permitting, Friday, March 31. The improvements are part of the Chicago-to-St. Louis high-speed rail program.

In order to complete the work, Strip Mine Road will be closed at the railroad tracks west of Illinois 53. A posted detour will direct westbound traffic on Strip Mine Road to go south on Illinois 53, west on Coal City Road and north on Illinois 129 to meet back with Strip Mine Road. Eastbound Strip Mine Road traffic will take the reverse route.

Daily lane closures will continue to take place on Illinois 53, as needed. The closures will reduce the roadway to one lane with flaggers while construction activities are in progress. Illinois 53 traffic will be shifted to temporary pavement.

The overall project is expected to be completed in Fall 2017.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to flaggers and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits and be on the alert for workers and equipment.

The upgrades are part of the high-speed rail program to accommodate passenger service between Chicago and St. Louis at speeds up to 110 mph, reducing the length of the trip by one hour. The entire corridor is tentatively scheduled to be complete by the end of 2017. Approximately 150 crossings along the route will be improved to include additional safety features.

For details on other upcoming closures and additional information on the high-speed rail program, visit www.idothsr.org.

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